



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***ARIZONA'S HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING IMPROVES
FIRST RESPONDER INTEROPERABILITY ALONG THE BORDER
Two New Regional Communications Centers in Santa Cruz County***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced the opening of two new regional communications centers in Santa Cruz County.

Funded with homeland security grants issued through the Arizona Office of Homeland Security, the Regional Communications Centers will improve first responder interoperability along the border. The new equipment makes it possible for police, fire and other emergency responders using disparate radios to communicate quickly with one another during emergencies.

“Arizona’s first responders must be able to communicate during disasters,” said Governor Napolitano. “Today we are tackling this critical issue through high-tech mobile communications vans, upgraded radio towers and radio dispatch centers that allow our first responders to communicate during disasters.”

Over the last few years, the Governor has made interoperability a priority throughout the state. Federal homeland security funds have been dedicated to upgrading radio towers and installing new equipment including five mobile communications vans to ensure that Arizona’s public safety officials can communicate during response efforts. Counties throughout the state, including Arizona’s four border counties, have upgraded or installed new radio dispatch centers to improve these response capabilities.

The two Regional Communications Centers in Santa Cruz County, located in the Sheriff’s Office and in the Nogales Police Department, have recently completed installation of new equipment that enables interoperability along the border counties. Federal homeland security grants funded \$800,000 for these projects. The radio equipment in these centers had been more than two decades old and outdated, hampering performance.

As part of today’s opening, Frank Navarrete, Director of the Arizona Office of Homeland Security, toured and participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly upgraded Regional Communications Center located in the Nogales Sheriff’s Office.

Attached to this release are fact sheets on Arizona’s homeland security strategy and Arizona’s regional approach to homeland security.